This is a view I do not recollect to have seen

Certain it is that it is lost sight of by nearly all, or quite all, our great men. A conviction of the truth of this position must

be my apology for offering my opinic subject. Respectfully thy friend, ARTHUR SHARP.

Near Fairhaven, Ohio.

THE NATIONAL ERA. WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 12, 1850.

THE POSITION OF THE NATIONAL ERA.

On the eve of our departure from Washington, we stated, in an editorial article, our views respecting the policy of abducting slaves-views held by us from the time we became an advocate of the Anti-Slavery Cause. That article was intended as a complete definition of our position, and a final disposition, so far as we were concerned, of the subject of which it treated. Our opinions, we knew, differed from those entertained by some Anti-Slavery men, but as our object was, simply to present a clear statement of the rule of a, me in think . Acres we a solved, with no feeling of disrespect towards any

It was, therefore, with profound regret that we observed in the Era of the 29th ult, an article in reply to certain animadversions of the Free Presby erian, especially as it was calculated, though not designed, to place the Era in a false position Courtesy to the friends who furnish editorial matter during my absence forbids all captious objections, but a regard for Truth constrains me to say that, with my whole heart, soul, mind, and strength, I repudiate the principle embodied in the following sentences of the article referred to

"He" (the citizen) "is therefore morally, socially, and politically bound to obey the laws of the land, whether he believes them to be just or not. He is further bound to obey what he be lieves to be unjust laws, because he is privileged to remonstrate, petition, and vote against their

The proposition, stripped of extraneous matter, and in its plainest form, is this. If the law of the State in which I live, requires me to do an unjust act, I am morally hound to do it: a propo sition which I could not assent to, without denying the existence of a Chel or the supremacy, of his authority #

To me. Human Law has no sanctity, no authority, any further than it is a transcript of, or in harmony with, "the Higher Law," the Divine Law, the Law of Nature, the Law of Him who has created all things, and has paramount authority over all things. If it receive my reverence and obedience, it is because it is just and tour, and has therefore the sanction of Him to who,n alone I acknowledge absolute allegiance, and not because of the existence of Human Penalties or rewards. I recognise no sanctity, no authority in any Human Law which is in conflict with the Divine Law. If it requires me to do a moral wrong, it requires what the Universe has no right to require-to commit an act of rebellion against the Supreme Lawgiver. I will not do that wrong but will disobey the Law and submit to the penulty Disobedience is demanded by my allegiance to Justice and Truth; submission, by my respect for Peace and Order.

I shall not now argue those positions: it is sufficient for me to state them concisely and plainly, so that there may be no misapprehension of the ethical principles that control the columns of the

My views of the policy of abducting slaves were fully presented in the Era of the 15th ult. I wish to add nothing to them, subtract nothing from them, qualify them in no respect.

Lynn, Mass., Sept. 1, 1850.

* Remarks by the Editor pro tempore, A moment's consideration will show that Dr. Bailey has totally misconstrued the paragraph quoted, and it is due to me that I should have the privilege of saying so through the columns of the Era. He has confounded two things essentially different, viz: doing and suffering. The proposition to which he objects is, that men are bound to obey unjust laws-submit would have been a more appropriate word, and would have conveyed my meaning more definitely. But submission is obedience, and, therefore, the word is not out of

Laws rarely command the citizen to do a particular thing - they are almost invariably prohibitory, so far as they affect the mass of the citizens, not commandatory. The command is directed to the officers of the Law. Men are not commanded to hold Africans in slavery-they are only prohibited from assisting the slave in escaping from his owner. Dr. Bailey submits to the prohibition, although he holds it to be unjust He does so in the conviction that submission to the injustice is a less evil than would result from the infraction of the law-in other words, he feels bound, as a good citizen, to obey the injunction of the law. Of the obligation of laws commanding unjust actions. I entertain the same opinion with Dr. Bailey. I hold that no human authority has a right to command me to do that which my conscience condemns as wrong; and I should feel a perfect right to disobey such a regulation. But, in point of fact, I never have been called upon to perform such an action. I have lived all my life in the atmosphere of slavery, and yet the law has never required me to do anything inconsistent with my sense of right-perhaps with a single exception. I allude to the police regulations of the slave States, which require all persons to serve on the patrol, and to punish slaves for conduct which I hold to be innocent. But even in this case no one is actually compelled to serve. He has the option of serving or paying a trifling fine; and

such is the case in all similar instances. I might fortify my position by the authority of the New Testament, the recognised standard of morality throughout. Christendom. We are commanded to "resist not evil," and to "submit ourselves to the higher powers:" and in obedience to these injunctions the early Christians submitted to a thousand unjust laws, while they freely suffered martyrdom rather than execute them. In a word, they felt bound as good citizens to suffer injustice, but never to inflict it in the name of law.

CANDIDATES FOR CONGRESS.

Many of the members of the present Congress are candidates for reelection. We hope that our readers among their constituents have kept watchful eyes upon their action during the session now

Those who have proved untrue to Freedom during the recent struggle should be defeated at all hazards. Better send new men, even if no better than their predecessors, than return those who have once proved unfaithful. Let them be punished, whoever may succeed. The example and warning will do good In no case should any anti-slavery man vote for

1. That he will vote for and cordially support

a bill to prohibit slavery in the Territories. 2. That he will vote for and cordially support a bill for the abolition of slavery and the slave

trade in the District of Columbia. 3. That he will steadily and inflexibly oppose and vote against the admission of any more new slave States, whether erected out of Texas or the

Territories 4. That he will neither support nor vote for any person as Speaker of the House of Representatives who is not known to be ready and willing so to organize the Committees of the House as to give the freemen of the free States their just

influence in the business of legislation. These are now the vital points of controversy between the allied forces of Hunkerism and the Slave Power against the Jeffersonian Democracy. Every energy of Freemen should be brought to bear upon them. Hunkerism and the Slave Power regard the question of prohibiting slavery in ernor from the ranks of the old Liberty me

Freedom. The struggle for more slave States is cratic Convention at Syracuse will, it is hoped, to be renewed at once. The people of the free take ground on which Jeffersonian Democrats But, above all, let freemen look to the organizato nothing can be done. The election of a slave- gressive principle admits of continual enlargeholding Speaker determined at this session the or- ment. Would that all anti-slavery men could ganization of committees so as to insure the re- remember that in Union there is strength-in ults which have been actually witnessed. The Division, weakness. mbination of the caucuses of the old parties in the Senate so organized the committees of that body that no measure favorable to Liberty could receive the sanction of any one of them. The people must look to these things. If they would have this course of action reformed, they must see to their own elections of Representatives, and

Farthe National New "LOVEST THOU ME ..

BY MARY IRVING

" Lovest thou Me more than these?"

Mother! bending o'er the cradle Of thy earliest born, Watching till the blue eyes open To the rosy dawn ;

Pouring from its purest fountain Earth's ido'stry; Listen to the voice that murmureth. " Lovest thou Me?"

Sister! by the " midnight taper Counting labor light, For thy childhood's best beloved in his manhood's might Still for him thine eye to Heaven Lifting tenderly;

Back to thee that whisper stealeth. Lovest thou Me ? Maiden! with a deeper trusting Than a sieter's own;

With the silent stars to watch thee, Dreaming-all alone; Dreaming of the star that lighteth Start not when another asketh,

havent than Me? Watcher! by the fainting night lamp O'er a fainter sleam, Flickering on the lips thou lovest -

To thine agony, "Lovest thou Me?"

Love's last earthly beam-

Oh! our hearts by earthly loving Learn the love of Heaven; Not to wean from the Creator, Was his creature given. He who tunes our spirits' harp-string

To such harmony, Well may breathe upon them sweetly " Lorest thou Me!

THE DUTY OF THE FREE DEMOCRACY.

The California Admission Bill, the Utah Territorial Bill, and the Texas Boundary and New Mexico Territorial Bill, have received the approval of President Fillmore, and have becom laws of the land.

What has been gained and what lost to Free dom by these acts? 1. The entire Pacific coast is covered by a pro-

hibition against slavery -- in Oregon by act of Congress; in California by the Constitution of the State. Both these splendid acquisitions to the free soil of the Union are due, mainly, to the ac- beau to walk with to church or to singing-school. oralty. This is an indispensable ceremony tion of the Jeffersonian Democracy at Buffalo, and subsequently.

To her, coquetting or flirting are names for un-known things. If she goes to a ball, it is under who have given your hands, with your hearts in

This act will stand among the legislative phenomdarkness of its disgrace. The terms which it proposes will of course be engerly accepted by Texas, and there is no remedy. The territory is gone, and the debt is fixed.

These are the positive gains and losses thus far. The former far exceed the latter.

3. New Mexico and Utah remain. The forme of these Territories contains, at a rough estimate, two hundred thousand square miles of land; the latter, one hundred and fifty thousand.

The acts providing Governments for these Territories contain no provision directly establishing or prohibiting slavery. The only clauses which have any bearing upon the subject, in any way, are three: 1. That which provides that the States to be carved out of them shall be admitted with or without slavery, as the Constitution of the new States may decide. 2. That which provides that no citizen shall be deprived of life, liberty or property, except by the judgment of his peers, or the law of the land. 3. That which provides slaves may be in question.

It will be observed that the first of these clauses admits a construction which will allow the introduction of slaves into the Territories : for why provide for the erection of slave States, in any contingency, out of a Territory where there can be no slaves? The second of these clauses was intended

loubtless, to countenance the Southern claim to hold slaves in the Territories. But it will hardly avail, inasmuch as the Constitution is above the law, and provides that no person shall be deprived of liberty without due process of law. The third clause has been thought to admit

similar construction; but it is obvious that questions of title to slaves may arise where the law allows no slavery. The case of Sommersett is an instance. Every case of claim to an alleged and were married there," fugitive slave in a free State is an instance. The clause was inserted on a motion of Mr. Hale, with no intention to admit the existence of sla- on the day I left it, and came immediately to this very in the Territories; but especially to allow a city." full contestation of the claim to hold slaves, whenever made.

But the fact that clauses like the first and sec and of these have been permitted to find place in these bills, while all language affording any fraplication, however slight, against slavery, has been carefully excluded, is sufficient to arouse the The tameness with which Northern men con sented to these clauses showed how little most of them understand or care to understand the subtleties of the Slave Power, and how cold are their

Let judges, of Southern views, be appointed, and they will find in these clauses implications in favor of slavery sufficient to establish it, evenif they should not be quite ready to adjudicate the favorite doctrine of the slaveholders, that slavery exists in the Territories by force of the Constitution itself. Congress has provided no guard against Territorial slavery. They have rather intimated a consent to its introduction But the whole real responsibility is now cast upon Mr. Fillmore's Administration. The Executive can introduce or exclude slavery at pleasure. What its action will be, remains to be

Meanwhile these facts indicate clearly the duty of the Free Democracy. The great question of of those days when the royal palace was the vil-Freedom or Slavery for the Territories, yet remains entirely open and unsettled. It must not | yielded precedence to his mistresses—have passed be left to the doubtful action of any Administration. The Jeffersonian Democrats in Congress should at once introduce bills for the prohibi- nity and idleness, and the poor, corrupted by tion of slavery in the United States, and thus poverty. appeal to the people. The Free Democracy, everywhere throughout the country, should reorganize itself. It has just fought one noble battle

ment uncontaminated with slavery is essential to not yet ascertained; but the best hopes are freedom of legislation. No one can estimate the cherished. In Wisconsin, also, and in Ohio, the social influences of a slaveholding city against signs are cheering. In New York, the Demo-States should at once prepare to meet it. Web- can consistently stand. If not, the Free Democster and others have endeavored to deliver them racy, whether few or many, should rally under bound into the hands of their adversaries on this its own separate banner. No alliances should be question. Let the bands be burst as by Samson. made or maintained at the expense of principles. And why cannot all anti-slavery men who vote tion of the House and the Senate. With the at all, unite with the Free Democracy? Their committees of the two Houses against them, next platform is broad enough for all, and their pro-

For the National Era. SHORT NOTES ON FRENCH MANNERS. No. 1.

HOW PEOPLE GET MARRIED IN FRANCE Where novels finish, I begin-for marriage, it the end of young ladies, is the beginning of soto the choice of Senators by their State Legis- ciety. In France, it is the peculiar institution, the jutting point which first catches the eye of a foreigner. If there were not some such salient angle, I should be embarrassed where to com--re vet on mytes for Johnny Crapaud, as the Englishman calls his lively neignbor, oners rew inequalities on his polished surface. With Johnny Bull, the reverse is true: one may always take him by the horns, or by any other part of his rugged coat.

French women are seen everywhere : they meet you at the custom-house when you land, receive you at the hotels, sell to you at the stores, and charm you always. Your first walk on arriving at Paris is to the famous promenade of the Boulevards, and thence to the Champs Elysée. What soft cohorts of sparkling-eyed houris meet the gaze! what a gentle rustling there is of silks and muslins! The air, too, is exhilarating and redolent with the most delicate perfumes. Little feet twinkle from under the cloudy folds of popelins and watered silks. Beauties with complexions of every tint, from the rose-leaf hue of the Normandy girl to the rich brown of the daughters of the Pyrenees, recline in graceful languor on the velvet cushions of the calashes and phætons that roll so noiselessly along.

Do not fall into the error of supposing that any of these ladies are in the market. If they are, be sure they are not exposed as merchandise, but are only on the lookout for men who are so. It is a gross slander on French women to say that men buy and sell them. The truth is just the reverse: they buy the men-or their parents do it for them. A man with four daughters has just that number of husbands to purchase for them. I know a well-fed, amiable, rosy-faced specimen of the better class of the bourgeoisie, who has four girls to marry. "Mon Dieu!" says he, four girls to marry. "Mon Dieu!" says he, clasping his hands, "shall I ever be rich enough refusing the winner, but, in that case, relinquishto get husbands for them all ?" He has been hard at work for many years accumulating money to give each of them a suitable dowry. For, in France, no dowry, no husband, is a proverb of a most practical character. Jennie, the servant girl, is laying aside a part of her wages to form a little dowry to be presented to her husband on the day of her marriage.

As the parents look to marriage as the means of securing their daughters from poverty, the girls are not permitted to mingle in society, where an access of love might spoil all prudential plans. A broad gulf lies between them and the world, and only to be passed on the bridge of matrimony. For the French girl, there are, alas! no evening parties of young people, no sleighing frolics, no 2. On the other hand, the Texan Boundary | the watchful eye of her mother, or of some friend Bill surrenders at least ninety thousand square who keeps a sharp duenna look to the applicamiles of free soil to slavery, and creates a national | tions made to dance with her; but balls are to her debt of ten millions of dollars to buy off Texas as angels' visits. She has no young acquaintances from a threatened attack upon the United States. of the other sex. The probability is, that, since she reached her teens, she has never spoken to a ena of our day and nation conspicuous in the young man, with the exception of her brothers and

Her heart is uneasy with rich affections, of which she can herself make no investment; her friends charge themselves to invest safely for her. Some bright day, it may prove a dark one for her, an uncle or friend of the family comes to dinner, bringing with him a companion. The latter takes the seat next her at table, whispers flatteries in her ear, and strives to make himself vastly agreeable. The guests gone, we may imagine the father drawing his daughter tenderly to him, and asking her what she thinks of her new acquaintnnce; he is of a respectable family, is moral, satisfied with the amount of her dowry, and is willing to take her as his wife. Her acceptance will secure her a suitable establishment, and make happy the declining years of her parents. If the pretender is not frightful, the girl nearly always consents, without any misgivings of the futurefor the faith inherent in woman's nature refuses to believe that her husband can despise the rich treasure of affection she is prepared to bring him. She has no other love to suppress, and her only desire is to love him. The short time before her marriage is filled with the dreams incident to that period of agitation, hope, and maidenly fears. She sees her betrothed two or three times in the presence of her parents, who perhaps retire a few minutes far enough off to permit the young couple to exchange a few words unheard. But it often happens that she never sees him at all before the I had last year in one of the boxes of a provincial theatre, in the interval between a comedy and a tragedy, recurs to me. Chance had placed me next a casual acquaintance, the charming wife of a learned professor.

"And so you like Paris very much ?" "A preference I share no doubt with yourself, Madame, since you resided there a year or two,

Very true; but I know nothing of the place for I was there in a convent school, was married

"But your husband! you did not get acquainted with him in the convent, certainly."

"Oh! no; I never saw him before the morning of our marriage, and heard of him for the first

Some of my readers may be scandalized at this summary way of disposing of a young lady's hand and heart, and may be ready to predict all sorts of domestic discords as the inevitable consequences. Not so fast, zealous advocates of the court evils of the French practice. The parties in the marriage just spoken of are only one of many couples whom I have known to be most happy in their domestic relations. I am far from thinking the mode of bargain and sale of husbands the nature redeem many of its faults. A varied obthe prevailing impression in America, of the want of conjugal fidelity in France, is entirely false, as plexity on this account. This magnificent repreit regards the higher and middle classes of the bourgeoisie, and ought to be greatly modified as it regards the ancient nobility. Some of the hap-niest firesides I have visited have been dedicated looking priest, a young fellow in a black gown, piest firesides I have visited have been dedicated to the household gods of families which date from the Crusades. The licentiousness of the aristo cratic and royalist France of the last centuryest sink in France, and the King's ministers away. Conjugal infidelity is now chiefly confined to the rich of large cities, corrupted by opportu-

But the French system of match-making has its inconveniences. Sometimes the gentleman proposed to declines accepting, which we can imagine has indeed triumphed in the former State; but it was obliged to select its candidate for Governor from the ranks of the old Liberty me soing on the hotel stairs some three times a day, impolicy of granting to one priest the monopoly

said he, "I want you to go with me to the church St. Sulpice. I have just received a proposition, dowry 25,000 francs; but I wouldn't accept before seeing the lady, and it is all arranged that I am meet her as she goes to mass with her mother."

An engagement at the time prevented my witnessing this singular inspection of the charms of a young lady, but C- told me afterwards that she was not quite so pretty as he had expected. and he had refused to take her unless her friends would add 10 000 francs to the dowry.

One of my American friends, a man of strikingly intellectual appearance, was waited on not long since by a professional match-maker, with a proposition of marriage from a lady whom he had met once at an evening party, and conversed with for a few minutes. Nothing was wanting to make the offer a good one; the attractions were, a dowry in hand of 100,000 francs, expectations from a h aunt, a rich apartment in her own house, and the aid of an uncle, whose influence in the political world is very considerable. I do not know how my countryman contrived to withstand this battery brought to bear on him, but he did so, and declined to be wooed and won in a manner unknown to the customs of his native land. Depend on it, I have scolded him roundly for his want of gallantry in giving a lady the mitten

But a gentleman is not torcen to wait until in courtship before popping the question. Indeed, he may do so without having seen the lady at all and no one thinks him at all eccentric. This fashion has its advantages. We will suppose you a veritable Lavater in physiognomy; you young lady at church, meet her in the street, or get a glimpse of her as she whirls round in a waltz; her appearance pleases you, and you send a friend at the instant to present your proposition to the father, and convince him that the alliance is a safe one. Next day, you are an athanced man. If you are old enough to be her father, so much the worse for the young lady, but you have no right to complain. In America, she would repulse you as a horrid old fellow, with too much wig and asthma to be a fitting beau; in

France she accepts you with your establishment.
Professional matchmakers do a good business at Paris. Their knowledge of eligible young men. old men, and blooming girls with good dowries, i so extensive and accurate that their services are frequently called for, though secretly, by the best families, for to consult them is not "quite the for to consult them is not genteel thing!

Whatever we may think of the policy of having professional aid in finding a mate, we can all agree that advertising for one is pushing the thing a little too far. Yet this is not uncommon. Li may be said for the French marriage advertisements, however, that they are not as ridiculous as with us: they are not descriptions, more or less flattered, of the temper, eyes, teeth, hair, and accomplishments of the fair one, followed by a diion to address A. Z. at the post office. they state briefly the age of the lady, her position in society, the amount of dowry she will give, and direct applicants to call on Monsieur or Madame So-and-so at their residence. Sometimes the papers contain plans of lotteries in which a youn lady is the prize; and her dowry the amount of es to him the money. "From the lights at pres-ent before us," we think putting a girl up as a lottery prize is running the thing into the

Suppose the match agreed on by all the parties concerned, there is still a hedge of formalities. For a foreigner, this hedge is made as high and thorny as possible. He must send for papers to prove his birth, (for the French never take it for all occasions, a certificate to that effect.) his age. identity, nationality, celibacy, and fifty other things. A German who had become naturalized in America, and returned to Europe to marry his sweetheart, a pretty Alsacien girl, was detained here a year before he could procure the necessary After the proper authorities are satisfied that

the parties have been born, &c., &c., permission is en to publish the bans at the door of the may them to natives of sunny France, you may have can law, but if your bans were not published in the parish of your husband, you are not his wife in the eye of the French law, your children can-not inherit through the father, and if you ever come to France with your husband, he will be amenable to the rigors of the correctional police unless he marry you over again. It pains me to tell you of this part of the French code, but my pen slipped naturally into it apropos of bans. Ask the nearest French consul, and he will tell you that a Frenchman may marry in every foreign country according to the of each, and disembarrass himself of all his wives and families by returning to his native land.

But revenous à nos moutous, that is to the young couple about to be married. The ceremonies are out, last week, by officiating for a friend as a "witness." It is a rare thing to have groomsmen or bridesmaids, but each party has two witnesses, who serve the same purpose, and receive their name from the number of papers they attest. Ten o'clock in the morning was appointed for the ceremony at the mayoralty. We were punctual. A lackey received us at the outer door, anthe large saloon where the ceremony was to take One of two minor mayors, scribbling at a desk, asked us to be sented on some velvet-cush-ioned benches. We sat there, chatting, for half an hour, when we were called up to sign the con-tracts, and half a dozen other mysterious documents connected with the marriage. There was a great bundle of them for the bride to sign. and waited for his honor the mayor. The room filled up gradually with other bridal parties until there must have been a hundred persons present. At last, after two hours' waiting, his honor bustled in, called our party to the platform before him, and read the ceremony. It was short, and nuttered over hurriedly, with the exception of the last phrase, which was uttered so distinctly that every one in the room could hear: " Me sieurs, do not forget the poor, if you please." His honor held out, at the same time, a tin contribu-tion-box. In the circumstances, there was noth-

bled well. From the mayoralty, we drove full speed, for his honor had kept us dancing attendance a long time, to the Catholic church of Notre Dame de Lorette, so called, not after the lorettes of Paris. but after the patron saint of the Italian town of Loretta. We were met at the door by a trim-looking, well-brushed, dapper gentleman, in small-clothes, and polished low shoes with ener-mous gold buckles. His fine black cloth coat was buttoned up to his chin; around his neck, and hanging down on his breast, was a massive gold chain; under his arm he wore a black socked hat fringed with silk; and at his side, a gold-mounted rapier. This elegant guide led us into the sacristy, and retired. The beadle then made his appearance, and I had the pleasure of examining him while he questioned one of the witnesses as to the readiness of our party. A Paris beadle is a magnificent fellow. No one under six feet and a half high can be a candidate for the post; nor is taliness sufficient, he must be fat, and have a majestic, gruff air. And then his dress! Solomon in all his glory was not so showily arrayed. A purple cocked hat, trimmed off with white down, and surmounted with a nodding plume, a gold-laced coat with crimson velvet collar, and cuffs figured with delicate needle-work in gold thread, rich plush short clothes, and white silk stockings, the nether man terminating in black, gold-buckled pumps. Over his broad shoulder, and touching his silver epau-lettes, is thrown a rich bandolier which sustains a sword of the finest workmanship, and in his right hand he carries an enormous gold-headed sels. I couldn't imagine, at first, what use the beadle had for a sword, but was not long in persentative of the church militant soon strode out, and presently we heard him returning, his big stick resounding on the marble floor of the church. with a white shirt thrown over it, and bearing a dry painting brush on a silver plate, and the dap gentleman with gold collar and sword, who welcomed us at the door. The priest went through the ceremony, sparing us a good deal of it because the groom was a Protestant. We escaped, for the same reason, having water thrown over us with the brush, which I was glad of, for the morning was fresh and the church cold and damp. The priest gave a little medal to the bride as a token of her marriage, and the party, after giving something for the poor, re-turned into the church to hear the mass. The beadle and the dapper gentleman showed us to the front sests on the platform in front of the great altar, where a priest in variegated gowns and with a very red face was reading something

eyes fixed on our little company. We were in the power of the big beadle, and were obliged under a broiling sun, with the thermometer each other on getting off with funds enough to pay the coachmen, when, oh bootless boast! the dapper gentleman in black, and the everlasting beadle, sprang upon us from the shelter of the doorway, their swords kept up in one hand, and the other extended for a memento of our visit. At the Protestant church, we were for tunately asked for nothing, and a fine table at the Palais Royal soon consoled us for our empty | full, which will render the working of them very

CALIFORNIA CORRESPONDENCE.

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 1, 1850. To the Editor of the National Era:

DEAR SIR: The "balmy breezes" of this Italian climate" are raising such clouds of dust in the streets, that I am glad to be able to escape from their influence, and seat myself in my room to indite an epistle to you. Persons that come to California after "dust," have no difficulty in

quite as much as the dust of a more yellow cast oes the mental one.

The climate of San Francisco is without doubt the most disagreeable in the world. Three months in the year the rain pours in torrents, almost inssautly, and during the remaining nine the wind is blowing a gale, and the dust is so thick that it is sometimes impossible to see an object an hundred yards distant. Where the mud ends, the dust begins, and vice versa. Moreover, it is such cold weather now that a fire is absolutely necessary to comfort. Think of that, ye denizens of the sunny South, who are broiling beneath the rays of a July sun! The winter, with all its rain, is really the pleasantest season of the year in San Francisco, as there is occasionally a "holding up," when we have fine sunny weather, without any wind. Captain Wilkes very justly compared the climate of San Francisco with that of Orange Bay at Cape Horn.

The marks of the last-fire are now nearly ob literated, and the places formerly occupied by low and combustible buildings are now filled with substantial ones of brick, and San Francisco may now beast of some of the most solid and finest edifices in the world. Two splendid brick hotels, four stories in height, have just been finished near the plaza. Upon the walk of one of these, an improvement has been made which I think will be very generally adopted here. A side-walk has een laid of asphaltum or mineral pitch, mixed with resin and sand, and poured on in a melted state. When cool, it becomes as hard as stone, and makes a perfectly smooth and durable pavement. This pitch is found through the whole of the lower portion of California. In the vicinity of Santa Barbara and Los Angeles are some eight or ten springs whence it bubbles up in a liquid form, and spreads itself over the ground for acres. It is used by the natives in Los Angeles as a covering for houses, rendering them impervious to the drenching rains of the winter season. I doubt not but this asphaltum will ere long assume the character of an article of trade in this country.

The Common Council of the city have lately assed an ordinance prohibiting gambling on the Sabbath ; and this day, which was formerly characterized by the greatest degree of dissipation, is now rendered comparatively quiet. It is said that an ordinance is now before the Board, prohibiting the sale of liquor on the Sabbath. Thus, step by step, reforms are progressing, and I trust ere long that onr city will be freed from the many evils and nnisances, that, if not swept away, will yet cause desolation amongst us. Gambling is carried here to the greatest extent. Every known game of chance that was ever played, and many which have been invented " expressly for the California market," are in progress, for the purpose of robbing the unwary of their hard-earned dollars. I saw, yesterday, sitting at a monte table, sponging his whiskey from the dealer, a young man who landed here from the mines a few days since with five thousand dollars in gold-dust, the results of several months labor in the mines. He came down for the purpose of returning home in the steamer of to-day, to gladden his aged parents and friends by his success. But in an evil hour the fascination of the gaming-table overcame him. and he lost his all. Now he is about returning to the mines to do his work all over again, and to profit I trust by the sad experience he has gained. Cases similar to this are daily occurring, and yet our city fathers license this trade of iniquity, and allow it to be carried on with impunity in our

We have just passed through an election for two assistant aldermen to fill vacancies in our Common Council, and, to show you the power of a political clique here. I have to report that one of the elected, and by a large majority, too, is Jim Grant, the celebrated barber who used to perform the necessary tonsorial operations upon the pretty face of James Gordon Bennett. Grant is an honest, hard-working man, but is about as fit for an alderman as he is for Pope of Rome. Our elections here are ruled by a miserable and corrupt clique of the kicked-out Tammany-Hall Democracy, who formerly made the Pewter Mug ring with their profanity and indecency. Never in the history of legislation did a city require the best intellects of her inhabitants more than San Francisco now does. Our treasury is bankrupt public works of the greatest importance, which have been commenced, are suspended for want o funds, and the city is getting deeper and deeper cided upon by the Board, and the city treasury is not now receiving one cent of revenue.

The news from the mines are of the most alarming character. For the last month, murders

by the dozens have been committed within the vifrom Stockton. Not a morning passed but at least one mangled and mutilated corpse was found upon the road. It was positively unsafe to travel except in large parties, well provided with arms. No traces of the murderers could be found, and that there existed a large and well-organized gang of robbers and cut-throats there was no doubt. The greatest excitement prevailed, and parties the villains, but none were found who could b identified. It was generally supposed, however that the band consisted of about thirty Mexicans all attempts at rooting out the scoundrels failed the miners gathered in different towns in the mining regions and have passed resolutions expel-ling all foreigners from the mines. Ten days' time are given them to leave, and all found after the termination of that period are to be shot This is certainly a summary proceeding, but it is the only one which can effect the desired end, and

render life and property safe.

The difficulties between the two races been greatly augmented by the unjust mining tax which was imposed by our State Legislature upon foreigners. The tax was so large that the miners in many cases could not possibly pay it and the attempt on the part of the collectors to enforce the law occasioned encounters and difficul-ties that have ended in wholesale murder. If the feel the weight of desolation that is the inevitabie result of our at-present-unsettled politica state, they would forget for the moment their pet ty sectional differences, and even the grandeur and glory of the "peculiar institution" would not longer prevent them from extending over us the

The miners are still waiting the falling of the waters, when a golden harvest is anticipated. The rivers are subsiding rapidly, and by the middle of the month the mining season proper will commence. Damming the rivers is now the principal means employed to get at the gold, and, as the richest deposites lie in the river beds, it promises to be the most profitable. On all the rivers, operations of this kind have been compared to the rivers. nced by large parties, who are very sanguine of success. Parties are also organizing to proc with machinery for the purpose of working the quartz rock which is found in nearly all parts of the mining region, and which sometimes yields as high as a dollar to the pound. There is no doubt but that, with a combination of labor and capital in this business, immense profits will be realized,

master must prove a contract (by the person he claims) to perform labor, or he has no claim upon him at all.

But the Hunkerism of Democracy was reduced making fortunes by individual digging is past. The miners are now laboring hard, and are not to either of the said Corporations expedient and ment uncontaminated with slavery is essential to not vet ascertained: but the best hopes are stand daily at three cups each, I left a pair at my elbow, and, looking round, saw my magnificent friend the beadle, with a contribution box in his it is considered that this labor is of the severest hand. The church was full of people, with their nature, to which canal-digging or rock-blasting to drop solemnly our white pieces into the tin receptacle, hoping that the poor might get them. After this we went back into the sacristy and are occasionally made. I saw to-day a "lump" After this we went back into the saction, signed the registry of the marriage. We resigned the registry of the marriage. We retained in good order through the church, the treated in good order through the church, the control of gold. But these hits are becoming very cent. of gold. But these hits are becoming very cent. of gold. unfrequent, and can in no degree be calculated

A new discovery has lately been made in the vicinity of the Klamath river, near the Oregon line. Gold has been found mingled with the sand and sea-shells upon the beach, the coast of the Palance, to yield from ten to thirty cents to the panprofitable. The fact, however, that a new city has just been laid out at the mouth of the Klamath may account in a measure for the richness of the reports, as it is a well-ascertained fact in California, that whenever anybody lays out a new town, he always has a rich gold mine "convay-

The emigration across the plains are suffering erribly, from the want of provisions and grass. Meetings have been held here and in Sacrat City, at which funds have been contributed to their relief, and a large party have now started to most thread ve We are now indulging in the heavy of ice, of

into their faces, and blinding their bodily vision | the Sierra Nevada. What do you think it costs in San Francisco? Two thousand dollars per ton! A dollar a pound. We don't indulge ice cream much at three dollars a glass, but the anti-temperance men say that it is very good The Panama leaves this afternoon with 278

assengers and about two millions of gold dust. Yours truly,

For the National Era. THE THIRTY-FIRST CONGRESS.

BY GEORGE W. PUTNAM

Men shall be what they shall seem, clad in honor to the Free at Worcester said Anson Burlingame Even so!" the people say, " up and at the task! rom falsehood and from treachery, ay! tear away the

They come - the doughface throng - the chaff from Freedom's threshing floor, Sowing low to bloody Moloch, as they meet him at his door,

See! how with meek and cringing smile and humble mier they peas.
Puppets to dance and play their part in legislation's farce

Shall your names be kept for warning to every coming age. Hail' defenders of a People's fame! what laurels shall ye Whose highest moral reach is but a compromise with Sin!

Hall' Jeaders of a nation! how on the world's broad page

If yours the form of Freedom - yours the accents of her

Then are her firm joints loosened, and her sinews all un

If your thoughts are her heart's pulse, your croak her bugle

List! e'en now to call of Liberty that Nation's great hear And the steps of waking millions are heard upon the hills-

They shall rebuke your treason, trample down the Slaver! Ye shall feel the People's majesty, and bow beneath the's

How throng the helpers of the Wrong, the Arnolds of our Midst the hecatomb of victims who have sunk 'neath ala

White men are in the auction mart! see down the length-

very's blight, Behold a costlier offering! a gloomier, sadder sight!

With hook upon his nostril, bit and curb upon his mouth, The whip held by New England hands, the reins held by the South-

How he travelleth in harness! how the mocking tyrants As they plough their red Golgorna with the Northern

Винимоти!

Shall live a thing accurred, and his sun go down in night

How glows your virtue's brightness! flames your lone bea-

con light!

Still stand! ye men of Spartan blood, and let it ne'er be

By the rights of all the living, by the honor of the dead, That Freedom fled before them-that she turned upon her Though those Halls ring with pistol shot, and clash of foe-

While o'er the whitened surges the ark of Freedom drifts, Lo! the keen eyed Northern eagles watching from their

And see! our glorious phalanx its protecting shadow throws From where day lights the hill-tops, to where the sunset

Then courage, little hope forlorn! who dwell 'neath slave The wide earth is looking on ye, and the angels Still stand your ground! give Freedom tongue! strike home

still war ye for the human race, and God DEFEND THE

Salem, April 27, 1850.

CONGRESS.

THIRTY-FIRST CONGRESS-FIRST SESSION.

Tuesday, September 3, 1850. Mr. Clay moved, and the Senate proceeded to

the consideration of the bill to suppress the slave trade in the District of Columbia.

Mr. C. said that he had no intention to enter into any lengthy discussion of this bill; it had already been fully debated and considered. He would confine his remarks to a mere explanati of the bill. The object of the bill was to abolish the slave trade in the District of Columbia. It was to suppress that traffic which was called the slave trade in this District; it was to prevent the introduction of slaves into this District from other slave States, and placing them in the depots here for the purposes of sale. The slaves which were brought here were but rarely, if ever, introduced into the District for the purpose of finding masters for them here; such a thing was hardly known; but they were brought here, and deposited in these depots, to be there retained till such time as they could be transported to Southern markets, or the Southern cities of Mobile and New Orleans The inhabitants of this District have no interest or concern in this trade; it is carried on by persons from other places. The inhabitants of this Dis-trict have no interest in the trade except in the obloquy with which it is considered by those who

are opposed to it.

This bill did not prohibit the owner of a slave in the District from selling him to another inhabitant of the District; nor did it prevent an inhabitant of this District from going beyond the District and bringing in a slave for his own uses. The bill was only the revival of a law of Mary the corporate authorities of this city, that there was at this time but one of these depots for slaves. These depots were nothing else than private jails, which were open to no public inspection, examination, or any of the other disciplina is observed in public prisons. This bill broke up these private jails, and put an end to this foreign slave trade, and excluded from this District a traffic in which the inhabitants have no interest except perhaps in the odium which it attaches to the city.

He moved some verbal amendments, which

were adopted, and the bill was read as follows: A bill to suppress the slave trade in the District of Columbia. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Represent

atives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the — day of - next, it shall not be lawful to bring into the District of Columbia any slave whatever, for the purpose of being sold, or for the purpose of being placed in depot, to be subsequently transferred to any other State or place to be sold as merchandise. And if any slave shall be brought into the said District by its owner, or by the authority or consent of its owner, contrary to the provisions of this act, such slave shall thereupon me liberated and free.

proper. And the same power is hereby vested in the levy court of Washington county, if any at-tempt shall be made within its jurisdictional lim-

its to establish a depot or place of confinement for slaves brought into the said District as merchandise for sale contrary to this act.

Mr. Foote offered a substitute empowering the

Mr. Foote offered a substitute empowering the corporate authorities of Washington to prohibit the slave trade; and after some remarks by Messars. Hunter and Clay, Mr. Downs moved that the bill be postponed until this day week.

Mr. Clay thought the bill should be acted on at this time, and called for the yeas and nays on the motion, and they were ordered.

this time, and called for the yeas and nays on the motion, and they were ordered.

Mr. Foote opposed the motion to postpone, and explained and advocated his substitute. He said that it had been submitted to the Mayor of Washington, and had met with that gentleman's hearty approval. He considered that, if his amendment are adorted it would result in the hearty is a considered that the considered that the

approval. He considered that, it his amendment were adopted, it would result in the breaking up of those depots for the sale of slaves, which he detested as much as any one else. He accepted the amendment proposed by Mr. Pearce as a modifi-The Senate refused to postpone.

Mr. Pearce then offered an amendment impos Mr. Pearee then one-ret an amendment impos-ing severe penalties upon free persons of color, who shall aid in the escape of slaves, and also empowering the city authorities of Washington to prohibit free persons of color from coming into the District to reside. The question recurring on Mr. Pearce's amend.

ourstion. He could vote for the first branch of the The question was then taken on the first branch

of the amendment, and it was agreed to-yeas 26 nays 15-as follows: nays 15—as follows:
YEAS—Messrs. Atchison, Barnwell, Benton,
Berrien, Bright, Butler, Davis of Mississippi,
Dawson, Dickinson, Dodge of Iowa, Downs, Foote,
Houston, Hunter, Jones, King, Mason, Morton,

Pratt, Rusk, Sebastian, Soulé, Sturgeon, Turney Underwood, and Whitcomb-26. NAYS-Messrs. Baldwin, Clarke, Clay, Cooper. Davis of Massachusetts, Dayton, Dodge of Wis-consin, Ewing, Greene, Hamlin, Seward, Smith Spruance, Wales, and Winthrop-15.

The second branch of the amendment was also

agreed to-yeas 24, nays 18-as follows: YKAS-Messrs. Atchison, Barnwell, Benton, Berrien, Bright, Butler, Davis of Mississippi, Dawson, Dickinson, Dodge of Iowa, Downs, Foote, Houston, Hunter, Jones, King, Mason, Morton, Pratt, Rusk, Sebastian, Soulé, Turney, and Whit-NAYS-Messrs. Baldwin, Clarke, Clay, Cooper,

Davis of Massachustts, Dayton, Dodge of Wisconsin, Ewing, Felch, Green, Hawlin, Seward, Smith, Spruance, Sturgeon, Underwood, Wales, and Winthrop—18.

Mr. Foote said that he would, if no objection was made, withdraw his substitute.

Mr. Berrien asked what world be the effect

now upon the amendments just adopted, if the substitute of the Senator from Mississippi were aggreed to? The Chair replied, that if the substitute were agreed to, the amendments just adopted would be stricken out. No objection being made, the sub-

stitute was withdrawn. Mr. Mason moved that the Senate adjourn.
And then, by vote of ayes 28, noes not The Senate adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1850.

Mr. Clay said, that as there was on yesterday

a strong expression in favor of the postponement of the bill to suppress the slave trade in the District, and as there were several Senators absent who desired to vote on the bill, he would not press its consideration, but would move that the bill be taken up at this time, with a view to its

The bill was then taken up, and postponed till

The following are the principal amendments to the Post Office Appropriation bill, reported by the Committee on Finance, which were agreed to. Insert at the end of line 36: "And the Postmaster General is hereby au-thorized in his discretion to dispose of to the best advantage any quarterly returns of mails, sent or received, which were made up previous to 1845, preserving the accounts current and all vouchers accompanying such accounts, and to use such portion of the proceeds thereof as may be necessary to defray the cost of separating and disposing of the arms.

Strike out the whole of the second section, and

For transportation of the mails, including service in California and Oregon For transportation of mails in two
steamships from New York by
Southampton to Bremen at \$100,000

for each ship, under the contract with the Ocean Steam Navigation Company of New York -And for transportation by two ships under the same contract, from New York to Havre, at \$75,000 each

ncluding unexpended balance of former appropriation -For transportation of the mails be-tween Charleston and Havana, by mer appropriation way of Key West, calling at Savan-

nah under the contract with M. C. Mordecai or transportation of the mail across the Isthmus of Panama For compensation to postmasters, &c. For ship, steamboat, and way letters For wrapping paper -For office furniture (in the P. O.)

For advertising -For mail-bags For blanks For mail locks, keys, and stamps For mail depredations and special For clerks for offices (in the P. O) For miscellaneous -

For publishing new editions Post Office Laws and Regulations, and of the table of post offices The above specific appropriations are in lieu

25,000

of general appropriations contained as it came from the House. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1850 The Senate was engaged during this day upon matters of a private or local nature, and its pro-ceedings would afford little interest to the gene-

ral reader. They are therefore omitted. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1850. The proceedings of the Senate were void of

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1850. The Senate did not sit to-day. MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1850. A message was received from the House

Representatives, announcing that that body had passed the following Senate bills: A bill providing for the admission of California as a State into the Union;

A bill establishing a Territorial Government for Utah; And a bill "proposing to the State of Texas the establishment of her northern and western boundaries, the relinquishment by said State of all territory claimed by her exterior to said

soundaries, and of all her claims upon the United States," with an amendment, in which the concur rence of the Seaate was asked. After the presentation of petitions and reports,
Mr. Douglas moved that the Senate proceed to
the consideration of Senate bill just returned from
the House, relating to the Texas boundary, with

view to concur in the amendment made thereto by the House.

The President said that the motion could not e entertained except by unanimous consent. Messre Chase and Turney objected.

Mr. Davis of Massachusetts moved, and the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill to permit vessels from the British North American provinces to lade and unlade at such places in any collection district of the United States as he may designate and after a brief explanation. he may designate; and, after a brief explanation, the bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third

reading.

The Senate then proceeded to the consideration of the bill for the adjustment of the Texas bouncing.

Mr. Douglas moved that the Senate concur in the amendments made by the House.

Mr. Chase called for the reading of the follow

Mr. Chase called for the reading of the following portion of the amendment:

"And no citizen shall be deprived of his life, liberty, or property, without the judgment of his peers, and the laws of the land."

Mr. Chase moved to amend the amendment of the House by striking out the word "citizen," and insert in lieu thereof the word "person." The question being taken, the amendment was rejected.

Mr. Chase moved to strike out the words "without the judgment of his peers, or laws of the land," and insert in lieu thereof... "without due process of law;" and this amendment was also rejected.

The amendment to the bill made by the House.

The amendment to the bill made by the Hou was then concurred in by the Senate, by the

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for each of the Corporations of the cities of Washington and Georgetown, from time to time, and as often as may be necessary, to abate, break up, and abolish any depot or place of confinement of slaves brought into the said Dis-